Money given for advertisements to fictitious firms

2180. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that vast sums of money were given to fictitious media firms and media productions by Government during 2002-03 and 2003-04 for publicity on rural development programmes;

(b) the details of steps proposed to retrieve the money given in the years 2002-03 and 2003-04; and

(c) the details of penal action taken against such firms which got the money?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOP-
MENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) No, Sir. During 2002-03 and
2003-04 payments have only been made to AIR, Prasar Bharati, Directorate of Audio Visual Publicity (DAVP) and empanelled AudioA/ideo producers on the basis of actual service rendered by them for undertaking publicity activities on various Rural Development Programmes.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Special scheme for development of land and conservation of water

†2181. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to start any special scheme for the development of land, protection from drought and flood and conservation of water;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how far this programme is different from the programme of 'food for work'; and

(d) by when the scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOP-
MENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Rural Development has launched a new poverty alleviation programme namely the National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP) with 100% funding during the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.